

## SPORT

## Gayle out of second Test

CRICINFO, St Lucia

Chris Gayle has been ruled out of the second Test against Bangladesh in St Lucia after being given permission to deal with a "personal matter" by the WICB.

His place in the squad has been taken by Leon Johnson, the 27-year-old Guyana batsman, who is uncapped at Test level but has played three ODIs. Johnson has a first-class average of 33.18 from fifty matches with two hundreds.

Gayle made 64 and 9 not out in the first Test, which West Indies won by 10 wickets, and bowled 17 overs in the second innings to claim 1 for 50.

Other than the absence of Gayle there are no other changes in a 13-man squad. Shane Shillingford and Jason Holder are the two players who did not appear in the first Test in St Vincent.

The match will mark West Indies' 500th Test.

Squad: Denesh Ramdin (capt), Sulieman Benn, Jermaine Blackwood, Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Kirk Edwards, Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Leon Johnson, Kemar Roach, Shane Shillingford, Jerome Taylor.

## Rollball gets rolling

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's team made a good start in the Sheikh Russel South Asian Rollball Championships, which got underway at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh beat Bhutan by 6-2 goals, thanks to three goals from Monir, two from Jewel and once from Asif.

In the women's event, though, Bangladesh lost by 0-12 goals against India before losing by 0-4 goals against Nepal.

The two-day championships will conclude today at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium, where the day's matches will be held. Finance minister AMA Muhiith is expected to be present as the chief guest and will distribute prizes after the final.

## Tigers in need of different approach

## 2nd Test at St Lucia begins today

SPORTS REPORTER



Poor batting, puzzling tactics and an unreasonably defensive approach on the field; each of these limitations glared throughout the five days of Bangladesh's thumping Test defeat in the series opener.

And if the Tigers have any realistic plans of drawing the series—the second Test begins at St Lucia today-- they need major changes in all these departments.

Except for Mushfiquir Rahim, every other batsman in the side seemed like they were part of a limited-over contest, thoughtlessly going at anything pitched outside the off-stump.

The manner in which Shamsur Rahman got dismissed in the second innings -- got caught at slips as he stood at his crease and swung his bat at a half-volley—perhaps best described the sordid affairs of the Bangladesh batsmen.

Tactical errors also played its part. Will the team management go in with just three specialist bowlers in the second Test and elect to field again? Or will they continue to depend upon the likes of part-timers Shuvagata Hom and Mahmudullah Riyad?

With Imrul Kayes out due to a skin infection, the Tigers will have to make a change. The left-hander is likely to be replaced by Anamul Haque. A change in the bowling is also on the cards after the toothless display in the first Test.

Robiul Islam, Shafiul Islam and Elias Sunny are the bowlers who were benched in the last Test. Of them Robiul has a high chance of making it to the eleven. The bowler has been Bangladesh's third highest wicket taker in the last two years and it was a surprise when Rubel Hossain was picked ahead of him in the last Test.

The management might even think of replacing Shuvagata, who although did bowl quite a handful number of overs, failed as a batsman. For the hosts, Chris Gayle won't be available who has been excused by the board for the player's 'personal reasons'.

Like St Vincent, St Lucia does not seem to have an apparent advantage for either the spinners or the pacers in Tests. Since 2003, 33 wickets were at this venue were taken by spinners and 38 went to pacers. In ODIs though, pacers have taken twice as many wickets as the spinners.

However, statistics won't make a difference as long as Bangladesh can't regain its form. It was an aspect that was witnessed in the last Test when the Tigers faltered twice on a flat track that barely had anything in it for the bowlers.

That is perhaps the reason why the team management stressed and discussed the mistakes of the first Test until Thursday evening, instead of chalking out their plans for the second Test.

There were a host of factors during the first Test which indicated Bangladesh's confused mindset—their bowling depended on part-timers; an impatient Mushfiquir made five changes in the first 16 overs; they elected to bowl first with eight batsmen in the side; while Mahmudullah did get a half-century in the last innings, promoting him to number five after he scored just 60-odd runs in the six innings prior to this series seems like an audacious approach.

One wonders if these surprising tactics will be put into use again when the teams meet at St Lucia today.



Bangladesh U-23 booters participate in a light training session at Goyang Stadium in Incheon yesterday. Bangladesh will begin their Asian Games campaign when they take on Afghanistan on Monday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Pistorious guilty of culpable homicide

## Sentence hearing to start Oct 13

AFP, Pretoria



Oscar Pistorius was on Friday found guilty of culpable homicide and faced a potential lengthy jail term for shooting dead his glamorous girlfriend, in a case that shattered the Paralympian hero's glittering career.

Pistorius was acquitted of a more serious charge of murder, but South African Judge Thokozile Masipa said on Friday that he had acted "negligently" in killing the blonde law graduate, named as one of the world's 100 sexiest women.

The judge agreed to release Pistorius on bail pending sentencing beginning on October 13.

His trial heard that in the early hours of Valentine's Day 2013 Pistorius fired four hollow point rounds into a locked toilet door, causing Steenkamp's head to "explode" and "amputating" her arm.

Dismissing swathes of state evidence as inconclusive or irrelevant, Masipa ruled that on the charge of murder "the accused is found not guilty and is discharged, instead he is found guilty of culpable homicide."

"A reasonable person," Masipa said, would have foreseen "that whoever was behind the door might be killed," adding that Pistorius did not take steps to avoid that.

The "Blade Runner," so nicknamed for the prosthetic legs that powered him to fame, stared straight ahead as the conviction was read, showing little emotion.

But from the gallery there was a sound of sniffles and shallow breaths as friends and family of 29-year-old

Athlete found guilty of negligent killing

Cleared of murder charges

Guilty of discharging firearm in restaurant

Prosecuting authority 'disappointed' with verdict



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa's Paralympic track star Oscar Pistorius listens as the verdict is read out during his trial at the High Court in Pretoria yesterday.

Steenkamp cried.

Steenkamp's father Barry ran his hand over his head while her mother June pursed her lips and shook her head.

With no mandatory sentence for culpable homicide, Masipa -- known for handing out stiff sentences -- will have a great deal of discretion over the punishment, which could range from a fine to more than a decade in jail.

"It all comes down to how she feels, how bad the mistake was," said Johannesburg lawyer David Dadic. "It's a very serious negligence crime."

Speaking after the verdict, Pistorius's uncle Arnold said the damage done to the athlete as a result of the trial had been "tragic."

But crime-weary South Africans and legal experts voiced anger and surprise that Pistorius was found not guilty of murder.

"Everyone is a little surprised," said lawyer Audrey Berndt.

Wits University criminal law professor James Grant said the state could appeal if they believe there has been a legal error.

The National Prosecuting Authority, said it was "disappointed" with the verdict, but had not yet decided on whether to appeal.

Outside the court Trevor, a 52-year-old pastor from Pretoria, expressed disgust at the verdict, and a sense that justice favours the rich.

"If he didn't have money he would be in jail," he said. "Real men don't do that."

Masipa -- whose career has taken her from a childhood in a poor Johannesburg township to the country's high court -- had described Pistorius as a "very poor witness" who was "evasive" when questioned.

The judge however found Pistorius guilty on just one of three gun charges that were also levelled against him.

Masipa said Pistorius was guilty of negligently handling a gun in a busy Johannesburg restaurant.

While Pistorius was having lunch with friends, he asked to see a friend's gun. While handling it under the table the firearm went off, injuring a boxer Kevin Lerena.

## Ajmal ban rouses Pakistan to action

AFP, Karachi



The ban slapped on star spinner Saeed Ajmal has left Pakistan's cricket chiefs frantically trying to take action on "chuckers", including dusting off expensive biomechanical testing kit that had laid unused for years.

Ajmal, who turns 37 next month, was suspended from international cricket on Tuesday after biomechanical analysis found his bowling action, reported during the Galle Test against Sri Lanka last month, to be illegal.

He must now undergo remedial work on his action, and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan acknowledged chucking was rife in the domestic game.

"I was informed 25 suspected bowlers had been playing in our domestic cricket and now the number has increased up to 35 -- that means every team has at least two suspected bowlers," said Khan.

Former captain and ex-PCB director of National Cricket Academy (NCA) Aamir Sohail said there were warning signs for Ajmal, who has bowled more balls than any other international bowler in the last three years.

"I had warned in February this year that Ajmal will be suspended because his action was deteriorating with age, but no one heeded. I had recommended his action be checked every year," he told AFP.

Former opening batsman Sohail, who played 47 Tests and 156 ODIs for Pakistan, said there had been a total lack of interest in dealing with bowlers with suspect actions.

"We are ourselves to blame," Sohail told AFP. "We have a biomechanical lab in NCA which I activated and gave a list of bowlers to test there, but the lab remained ineffective for years."

The NCA has equipment to test bowlers to check they are not straightening their arm more than the permitted 15 degrees in delivering the ball.

But the 440,000-dollar kit, which includes 18 cameras supporting apparatus and computer software, has gathered dust since it was bought in 2009 as successive PCB chiefs dismissed the need for it.

Cleared of chucking due to a congenital defect of his elbow in 2009, Ajmal came under suspicion again this year when England paceman Stuart Broad and former captain Michael Vaughan queried his action while the Pakistani was taking wickets at will in county cricket.

In June the International Cricket Council's cricket committee recommended a stricter approach on illegal actions.

That snared Sri Lanka's Sachitra Senanayake and New Zealand's Kane Williamson -- both suspended in July -- and then attention turned to Ajmal.

His ban is a huge blow for Pakistan as he has led the team's attack almost single-handedly across all three formats and was seen as key to their chances in next year's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Head coach Waqar Younis faces a daunting task in finding a replacement for one of the world's best bowlers.

The ban comes at a particularly difficult moment, with Pakistan facing a tough series against Australia in the United Arab Emirates next month.

## Prosecution 'disappointed'

AFP, Pretoria

South Africa's state prosecutors said they were "disappointed" by Oscar Pistorius's acquittal on murder charges, but will wait before deciding whether to appeal the decision.

"We respect the court's decision to convict the accused on culpable homicide, which is in fact a serious crime," said National Prosecution Authority (NPA) spokesperson Nathi Mncube.

"We are however, disappointed that we were not successful in securing a conviction on the original charge of premeditated murder, negligent discharge of a firearm and possession of ammunition," he said in a statement.

## Cairns to fight perjury charge

AFP, Wellington



New Zealand cricketing great Chris Cairns vowed Friday he would clear his name shortly before British prosecutors confirmed they would charge him with perjury over match-fixing allegations.

Former all-rounder Cairns has acknowledged previously that he is under investigation by British authorities for alleged fixing, but vehemently denied any wrong-doing.

The 44-year-old confirmed prosecutors had told him they intend to charge him with perjury and he would travel to Britain later this month to prove his innocence, New Zealand media reported.

"I'm obviously extremely disappointed, however, at least there will now be an opportunity to face my accusers in an open forum, with some rigour and proper process around that, so that I can clear my name

once and for all," he said in a statement cited by Fairfax Media and TVNZ.

Later Friday, the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed Cairns would face one count of perjury in relation to a libel action he brought two years ago.

"We can confirm that we have authorised police to charge Chris Cairns with one count of perjury, which arises from a libel trial held in the UK in March 2012," a CPS spokeswoman said.

In 2012, Cairns won 90,000 pounds (146,000 dollars) in a libel action against former Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi in London over a tweet alleging he was involved in match-fixing while playing for the Chandigarh Lions in the now disbanded Indian Cricket League.

The CPS have also charged London-based lawyer Andrew Fitch-Holland, a friend of Cairns who appeared as a witness at the libel trial, with one count of perverting the course of justice.

## Zahid to replace Meshu

SPORTS REPORTER

Winger Zahid Hossain is getting back to the national fold, after a break of one year, as he has been called up to the Bangladesh U-23 team for the Asian Games as a replacement for defender Atiqur Rahman Meshu, who returned home last night after being ruled out with an ankle injury.

The talented winger, who was out of national reckoning since the SAFF Championship in September 2013, is expected to fly within a couple of days for Incheon, South Korea.

"The coaches' first choice replacement for Meshu, Mithun Chowdhury, will not be eligible to take part as he was not in the initial list of 30. So, according to the coaches' decision, we are arranging to send Zahid Hossain instead," confirmed BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag. "However, it will take a few days to get the procedure completed and he is likely to miss the first match on September 15 (against Afghanistan)."

## First Division T20 results

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Ashiquil Islam hit an unbeaten 84 as Talent Hunt CA defeated Agrani Bank by four wickets in the First Division T20 Tournament at BKSP yesterday.

Ashiquil smashed eight fours and four sixes during his 59-ball knock as Talent Hunt scored 163 for six in reply to Agrani Bank's 162-3.

Nizamuddin smashed an unbeaten 70 in 36 balls as Khelaghar SKS posted 167 for six to beat Orient SC (104 all out) by 63 runs at BKSP.

In the day's other matches, Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha (110-9) beat Young Cricketers (81-7) by 29 runs at BKSP, Azad Sporting Club (106-4) beat Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (105-7) by six wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Dhaka. Wonderers Club (118-8) suffered a 16-run defeat to Uttara Sporting Club (134-7) at BKSP, City Club (126 all out) lost to Rapid Foundation (128-6) by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, BKSP (133-4) beat Surjo Torun Club (123-7) by 10 runs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, while Magnum Cricketers (119-2) registered an eight-wicket victory against Baridhara Dazzlers (115-7).